

# *California Department of Food & Agriculture*

## **Minutes**

of the Joint Meeting of the Pierce's Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board  
and Pierce's Disease Advisory Task Force

Held on

Tuesday, April 22, 2008  
Marriott Ventura Beach Hotel  
2055 East Harbor Blvd.  
Ventura, CA 93001

### **PD/GWSS BOARD**

#### **Members Present**

Kevin Andrew  
Dennis Atkinson

Ben Drake  
Al Rossini

Jim Unti

#### **Members Absent**

Greg Coleman  
Pete Downs  
Wally Ewart  
Drew Johnson

Bradford Lange  
Frank Leeds  
Steve McIntyre  
Dana Merrill

Steve Schafer  
Herb Schmidt

### **PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE**

#### **Members Present**

Kevin Andrew  
George Bruening  
Ben Drake  
Scott Hudson

Nancy Irelan  
Corky Roche  
John Snyder  
Judy Stewart-Leslie

Beth Stone-Smith  
Craig Weaver  
David Whitmer  
David Wineman

#### **Members Absent**

Ted Batkin  
Larry Bezark  
Nat DiBuduo

David House  
Drew Johnson  
Joe MacIlvaine

Richard Mounts  
Steve Nation  
Robert Wample

### **OTHER ATTENDEES**

Alan Bennett  
Michelle Dennis  
Tom Esser  
Ken Freeze

Eric Lauritzen  
David Morgan  
Greg Morris  
Kari Morrow

Roger Spencer  
Bob Wynn

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Kevin Andrew PD Advisory Task Force called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Bob Wynn conducted the roll call for the PD/GWSS Board and the PD Advisory Task Force. A quorum was present for the PD Advisory Task Force but not for the PD/GWSS Board.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Bob Wynn welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that Vice Chairman Al Rossini would be Acting Chairperson for the Board since Herb Schmidt was not available to attend the meeting.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Kevin Andrew asked PD Advisory Task Force members to review the minutes from the previous two meetings held on January 28 and March 7, 2008.

- ❖ It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously by the PD Advisory Task Force to approve the minutes of the January 28 and March 7, 2008, meetings.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next PD/GWSS Board meeting (via conference call) was scheduled for Friday, May 2, 2008, in Sacramento to address the April 22 action items. Chairman Kevin Andrew noted a meeting should be held before July in order to determine the assessment rate for winegrapes harvested and crushed in 2008 per the statute. A joint meeting of the PD/GWSS Board and PD Advisory Task Force committee was scheduled for Friday, June 6, 2008, in Sacramento.

## **BOARD AND TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP**

Bob Wynn stated that he had spoken with Frank Leeds and Frank had decided to resign from his position on the PD/GWSS Board. Bob said he was soliciting recommendations for his replacement. His resignation would be effective May 1.

## **FISCAL UPDATE**

Kari Morrow presented an update on the PDCP State Program Operation's budget and the Board's Revenues and Expenditure's Summary (see attached). The budget for the coming fiscal year would be voted on at the June 6, 2008 meeting. Beth Stone-Smith provided an update on the Federal Budget Funding Report for FY 08 (see attached).

## **PIPRA UPDATE**

Alan Bennett gave an overview of PIPRA's recent PD/GWSS activities. He discussed the PD literature and intellectual property (IP) databases and the PD websites, featuring recent news items, publications, and project reports. He also discussed work on the research discovery and product development pipeline. Next year they propose to continue to maintain literature and IP databases to further enhance the online reporting, fully integrate and support the research administration site, and develop framework for evaluating regulatory issues, standardized procedures, contract languages, and patent/legal issues.

## **PIPRA PROPOSAL**

Alan Bennett briefly discussed PIPRA's service proposal for fiscal year 2008-09. It includes maintaining the Pierce's disease intellectual property database and online reporting system and developing a standardized regulatory process for the Pierce's disease community.

## **RESEARCH FUNDING RECOMMENDATION**

Tom Esser reported on the research proposal RFP process. A total of 45 research proposals (42 biological, three economic) were received in response to the joint CDFA-UC RFP released on November 9, 2008. Proposals were reviewed by independent reviewers, panels of reviewers, and CDFA and UC advisory committees. Eleven biological research proposals were recommended for funding by the CDFA PD/GWSS Board, and five were recommended for funding by the UC PD Research Grant Program. The funding recommendation for the economic research proposals has been deferred until additional review can be done. Two of the biological proposals will be brought to the Board for funding consideration as applied research rather than basic research.

Judy Stewart-Leslie reported that the Consolidated Central Valley Table Grape Pest and Disease Control District was willing to provide partial funding for two of the submitted proposals.

## **RESEARCH DIRECTOR UPDATE**

Nancy Ireland gave an update on recent activities. This included working with the Research Scientific Advisory Panel (RSAP) on the review of research proposals, and investigating how to achieve commercialization of promising research discoveries.

## **RESEARCH DIRECTOR RFP**

Tom Esser provided an update on the Research Director RFP. The current contract will end June 30, 2008. The RFP for the next contract was released April 24, 2008, and bids are due May 15, 2008.

## **OUTREACH AND EDUCATION CONTRACT AND FUNDING RECOMMENDATION**

Roger Spencer began with an overview of the Outreach and Education RFP. In January 2008, bid packages were submitted for the RFP. In February, a panel comprised of PDCP and Public Affairs staff reviewed the packages, and nominated three of the submitting agencies to go forward for interviews: McNally Temple Associates, Inc., Pac/West Communications, and Brown Miller Communication. They were scored and the award was given to Brown Miller. The cost of the contract for Brown Miller for FY 2007-08 is \$55,542 and for FY 2008-09, \$143,278 for a total of \$198,820. Roger noted an action item is necessary to fund the contract requiring a vote from the Board at the May 2 meeting.

Ken Freeze presented an overview of the Brown Miller proposal for the Board. Brown Miller's objective is to show growers what they are getting for their money and gear their work toward grower needs, conduct grower surveys, press kits, newsletters, brochures to all growers associations, videos, and continue to attend various meetings around the state. Brown Miller will showcase some of the research that is taking place and demonstrate advances that are being made, including research that is going on out of state. Brown Miller has put together a GWSS interactive forum that invites both growers and researchers to join discussions and dialogue. Ken stated Brown Miller's intentions of taking research from the lab to the growers and to make tools available for managing vineyards in GWSS-infested areas. Brown Miller aims to show the value of grower assessments that have succeeded in paving the way toward program solutions. Brown Miller will continue what has worked: EBlasts, media outreach, internet forum, grower workshops and research based "How To" forums, and attendance at interactive trade shows.

## **NURSERY PROGRAM AND APPROVED TREATMENT IMPLEMENTATION**

Greg Morris provided an update on the nursery program (approved treatment protocol [ATP], see attachment). The nurseries participating in the ATP program have to complete four steps. These include: submit the nursery GWSS pest management plan to their county agricultural commissioner's office and have it approved; deploy the traps evenly spaced (four traps per acre) throughout the nursery and the loading dock; train their employees on the Best Management Practices (BMPs) including spraying techniques to be used; and sign a compliance agreement.

The nurseries who have expressed interest in participating in the new ATP program are as follows: Bordier's and Valley Crest Tree Company (Ventura County); Norman's and ABC Nursery (Los Angeles County); the Nakase Brothers (Orange County); two separate facilities for Village Nursery (San Diego County); and Village Nursery in Steele Valley (Riverside County).

For the last couple of years, the Board has funded a contract that allows Ventura County shipping nurseries within ½ mile of commercial citrus an opportunity to have a chemical treatment applied to their nursery. The contract has since been changed to include multiple treatments within the same season. During this last fiscal year, there have been nine nurseries receiving treatments totaling over 1,600 acres. Valley Crest Tree Company has requested an additional treatment prior to the end of the 2007-08 fiscal year. The total expenditure has been \$272,000 during the Fiscal Years 2007-08. This leaves approximately \$300,000 left in the contract. Unfortunately, the amount left cannot be moved into the next fiscal year as has been done in previous years. A new contract for Fiscal Year 2008-09 will have to be implemented.

## **AREAWIDE PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND UPDATE**

Beth Stone-Smith provided a brief update on current trapping data in the areawide programs in Riverside, Kern, and Tulare counties. In Temecula, Nick Toscano has treated 20 acres foliarly, and has another 150 acres scheduled for treatment. Coachella has trapped only seven GWSS so far this year. Past years comprehensive areawide treatments have significantly suppressed GWSS populations. In Kern County, 393 GWSS have been trapped to date. Last year at this time, we had almost 2,000 trapped in Kern. The only treatments so far have been 10 miles of windbreak treatments in the General Beale area. The fall foliar treatment regime worked well last year on the Highway 65 area. They will follow up this spring with imidacloprid treatments triggered by trap finds. In Tulare County, the same fall foliar regime was implemented as was done back in 2003. Only 45 GWSS have been trapped so far in 2008. Spring imidacloprid treatments are in the planning stages and are triggered by trap finds.

## **PIERCE'S DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM STAFF REPORTS**

**Nursery Update.** Greg Morris stated that so far this year there have been 9,066 shipments through February with only eight rejections, compared to last year's 9,966 shipments with 18 rejections.

**Rapid Response Program Update.** Roger Spencer noted for the rapid response element of the program there are no areas being treated so far this year. Santa Clara County (Branham, Blossom Hill and Evergreen) still has three infested areas (one or two GWSS were trapped in all of last year) and Sacramento County has two infested areas (Foothill Farms and Rancho Cordova). They will be conducting surveys and trapping both areas this year.

**Biocontrol Update.** David Morgan said their biocontrol work continues and that they have released over 18,000 parasitoids in the last month at 60 sites. Populations are low with few adults left. Egg laying is almost nonexistent and will see the next generation reaching the adult stage soon. There are several ongoing experiments. At UC Riverside, Dr. Joseph Morse has his students staking out egg masses in the field, and will see if *Anagrus epos* survives Southern Californian climates. Dr. Serguei Triapitsyn is evaluating candidate biological control agents in the UCR Quarantine Facilities. Dr. Stenger, with the ARS in Parlier, is looking at virus loads in GWSS populations; basically all GWSS are infected by viruses in California which raises some interesting potentials for using these viruses in control strategies by genetically manipulating the viruses. A further study is being carried out to evaluate the efficacy of current monitoring techniques for estimating parasitism rates in the field. The current technique involves eggs being collected in the field and returned to the laboratory where they are incubated and observed for parasite emergence. Consequently, egg masses, on average, are exposed to the risk of parasitism in the field for only half of the eggs' development time. This may lead to significant underestimation of the importance of parasitoids as GWSS mortality factors. To quantify this impact, GWSS eggs are being left in the field and observed for parasitoid emergence. This data will be compared with eggs collected from the field. Any discrepancy can then be quantified. David also noted that David Elms from the Arvin facility had recently transferred to the Department of Fish and Game in Blythe. He was recognized as an outstanding employee.

**PD Symposium and EIR.** Tom Esser announced that the 2008 PD Research Symposium will be held on December 15, 16 and 17 at the same location as last year. In response to a question about the symposium's finances, Tom said costs have tended to exceed revenues by about \$3,000 per year over the past couple of years. This deficit has been covered with surplus PD/GWSS Board funds from prior years.

Regarding the EIR, the Program has requested clarification on a legal issue. Once it is received, we will move forward to the next phase of the project.

#### **CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO C.G. SECTION 11126**

Not held.

#### **RECONVENING OF PUBLIC MEETING**

N/A

#### **OTHER ITEMS**

Michelle Dennis was introduced by Bob Wynn. Michelle informed the members and guests about the nursery tour which would be taking place on Wednesday. They would be touring Valley Crest Tree Company in Fillmore and Bordier's Nursery in Somis. Bob noted that Michelle was the Senior Biologist in charge of Southern California and that she is doing a great job.

#### **CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.